

From: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 3/30/2012 11:25:33 AM
To: mdrajem@bloomberg.net
CC: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: Re: Dimock - follow up

Hi Mark,

In light of your story today, we feel it's important to clarify the 7ppm value that Pennsylvania uses in determining actions related to methane in home wells. -- Terri

Pennsylvania does not have a drinking water standard for methane since it is not considered toxic in water. For health and safety reasons, they have established by regulation seven (7) ppm as a gas migration response value. At that level Pennsylvania expects oil and gas well operators to notify the state and work with Pennsylvania to determine what measures may be appropriate to mitigate any threats.

From: "MARK DRAJEM (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)" <mdrajem@bloomberg.net>
To: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 03/29/2012 05:03 PM
Subject: Re: Dimock - follow up

Guys - Just want to reconnect on this. Should I expect a response? Thanks, Mark

----- Original Message -----

From: MARK DRAJEM (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
To: Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov
Cc: White.Terri-A@epamail.epa.gov
At: 3/29 14:50:32

Roy, As I said, I had some outside scientists (Duke, Rochester and Oneonta) look at the EPA results from five of the wells, which I was given. They noted the high levels of methane in those samples and said that is likely caused by the drilling in the area and is consistent with their testing of water in that area. Are you concerned about the high levels of methane? Do you have any view on whether it is caused by the gas drilling? Thanks, Mark

----- Original Message -----

From: Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov
To: MARK DRAJEM (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: White.Terri-A@epamail.epa.gov
At: 3/29 14:12:32

Mark -- Sorry for not getting back to you sooner. Here are the responses to your questions.

Have you had your meetings with residents?

Residents from seven of the first 11 homes sampled have requested follow-up meetings with representatives of EPA and ATSDR. We have four meetings scheduled for today and tomorrow, and are working on scheduling the remaining three meetings.

Have you notified the state DEP about the methane levels?

Yes, we have provided the sampling results to the state.

Do you have any timeline for releasing the next round of results?

EPA plans to share results with residents from the next group of sampled homes when we receive validated results and prepare data packages. We can put your contact information on a list for any future EPA announcement about this information.

Roy Seneca
EPA Region 3 Press Officer
Office of Public Affairs
seneca.roy@epa.gov
(215) 814-5567

From: "MARK DRAJEM (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)" <mdrajem@bloomberg.net>
To: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 03/29/2012 11:03 AM
Subject: Dimock - follow up

Roy - And one more: Do you have any timeline for releasing the next round of results? Thanks, Mark

----- Original Message -----

From: MARK DRAJEM (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
To: Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov
Cc: Alcantara.Betsaida@epamail.epa.gov, White.Terri-A@epamail.epa.gov
At: 3/29 10:36:43

Roy - I just tried to reach you for a story I am writing today about Dimock. I had some outside folks look at some of the test results you found, and they are pointing the high levels of methane found in some/most of the wells. Have you had your meetings with residents? Have you notified the state DEP about the methane levels? Thanks, Mark Drajem 202 624 1964

----- Original Message -----

From: Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov
To: MARK DRAJEM (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: Alcantara.Betsaida@epamail.epa.gov, White.Terri-A@epamail.epa.gov
At: 3/15 19:11:38

Here is the EPA statement we are issuing today about the first round of sampling at 11 homes.

On Jan. 19, as a result of requests from residents and a review of the data we had in hand, EPA announced it would perform water sampling at approximately 60 homes in the Carter Road/Meshoppen Creek Road area of Dimock, Pa. to further assess whether any residents are being exposed to hazardous substances that cause health concerns.

The first round of sampling results is now available for the first 11 homes that were tested during the week of Jan. 23. Sampling results from these 11 homes did not show levels of contamination that could present a health concern. Samples from six of the 11 homes did show concentrations of sodium, methane, chromium or bacteria, but concentrations were all

within the safe range for drinking water. The sampling results also identified the presence of arsenic at two homes.

Out of the 11 homes tested, there are currently three homes receiving an alternate water supply provided by EPA. EPA will continue to provide water

to these homes while we perform additional sampling to ensure that the drinking water quality at these homes remains consistent and acceptable for use over time. EPA is also taking a second round of samples from the two homes where arsenic was detected, and although the levels meet drinking water standards, we will resample to better characterize the water quality of these wells. After receiving results from the second round of sampling, EPA will re-evaluate the need to continue providing an alternate water source.

EPA has offered to meet with all the residents to go over their data and answer any health-related concerns. As further quality assured data becomes available for the remaining homes, we will share with the homeowners in an expedited manner. Our actions will continue to be based on the science and the law as we work to help get a clear picture of water

quality for these homes in Dimock.

Roy Seneca
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Seneca/R3/USEPA/US][attachment "alt_body.html" deleted by Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US]